(b) Representatives from the Association of Synthetic Fibre Industry, Association of Polyester Staple Fibre Manufacturers, Association of Manmade Fibre Industry, All India Crimpers Association, Indian Cotton Mills Federation, Federation of the Art Silk Weaving Industry, Powerloom Industries Association, Clothing Manufacturers Association, Retailers Federation Bombay, and Bombay Piece Goods Merchants Mahajan have been included as members of the Monitoring Committee which regularly discusses the issue. It appears that the prices of these products have not come down after the announcement of duty relief during the last Budget Primarily due to increase in the cost of raw materials used for manufacture of these items.

(c) No, Sir.

Import duty on newsprint

*32. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the import duty on newsprint to 40 per cent; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government at present.

(b) Does not arise.

Imposition of ban on the book titled 'Satanic Verses'

*33. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for imposing a ban on Salman Rushdie's book titled "Satanic Verses";

(b) what objectionable material has been found in the book and what are the guidelines for identifying a material as "objectionable";

(c) what has been the policy of the Central Government in this regard and whether the policy has always been consistent and equally applied in the past pertaining to all cases of religious sentiments of all communities and sections of Indian society; and

(d) whether Government propose to withdraw the order banning the book "Satanic Verses"?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c) Section 11 of the Customs Act, 1962 empowers prohibition of import and circulation of any publication *inter alia* for the purpose of maintenance of public order, standard of decency, morality, maintenance of security of India and for any other purpose condusive to the interest of general public, prevention of contravention of any law for the time being in the force and friendly relations with foreign countries etc. These prohibitions imposed under Customs Act are uniformly applicable to all publications irrespective of the country of their origin. As the contents of the book titled "Satanic Verses" by Salman Rushdie were likely to be detrimental to the maintenance of public order, Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue issued instructions banning the import of this under Notification No. 77-Customs, dated 22nd September, 1956.

(d) No, Sir.